# FGDC Annual Report to OMB
## Format for Agency Reports – FY 2003

The following outline should be used by FGDC Member Agencies (or Bureaus) for their Annual Spatial Data Reports, which will be consolidated by the FGDC and submitted to OMB. Reports **should be brief, using bullets where possible**. Please provide only the information that will be useful for OMB to assess the agencies' achievements and for establishing future direction.

## Part A
## GENERAL FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES REPORT (All Agencies)

1. Agency or Bureau:
   Farm Service Agency
   United States Department Of Agriculture

2. Name of Contact for Report: Email: Phone #:
   Shirley Hall Shirley.hall@wdc.usda.gov 202-720-3138

3. Steering Committee Member: Email: Phone #:
   FSA is represented by the USDA Representative; Maury Mausbach of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

4. Coordination Group Participant(s): Email: Phone #:
   Shirley Hall Shirley.hall@wdc.usda.gov 202-720-3138

5. Subcommittee or Working Group Participation (Subcommittees or Working Groups your agency is involved with, but does not lead).

   Cadastral Sub-Committee

6. Strategy: Has your agency prepared a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into your business process - in coordination with the FGDC strategy, pursuant to OMB Circular A-16? If yes, briefly describe.

   Yes. FSA has prepared a GIS Implementation Blueprint and a 2003-2004 Acceleration Plan that lay out GIS Implementation for the agency. These documents coordinate imagery and other program related data acquisition, the reengineering of program business processes, and supporting application development. Both were developed in conjunction with the USDA Service Center Agencies GIS Strategic plan to support standards implementation and limit redundant activities in the GIS arena.

7. Compliance: How are your spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards? Also, please list the FGDC Standards you are using or plan to use in your organization.

   FSA provides FGDC compliant metadata for all nationally sanctioned geographic data created by the agency. All digital imagery meets National Map Accuracy Standards. FSA will collect and store FGDC

compliant metadata for new digital ortho imagery in a national geodata warehouse currently under development. FSA is currently using the content standard for geospatial metadata.

8. Redundancy: Prior to collecting data, how does your agency ensure that the data are not already available?

   FSA has managed farm field boundaries in a manual mapping environment for decades. FSA has also flown aerial photography for compliance purposes since the 1970's. This data has been an authoritative source for local governments in rural areas. Conversion of this data to digital geospatial data will be a significant asset to local governments and other users, particularly in rural areas.

   FSA works in cooperation and partnership with national, multi-agency coordination groups including the National Aerial Photography Program and the National Digital Ortho Photography program. FSA partnered with several Federal Agencies as well as State agencies in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Minnesota for digital compliance and base replacement imagery acquisition in 2003.

   FSA has also worked with other entities, such as the State of California and Department of Interior to share farm-field boundary information in a geospatial format. Within USDA, FSA currently shares geospatial data with the National Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development, and has established a data-sharing project with the Risk Management Agency.

9. Collection: Do your agency contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for NSDI standards?

   Yes. FSA contract specifications for geodata acquisition include requirements for information that will be used for FGDC compliant metadata.

10. Clearinghouse: Is all the data and/or metadata that your agency is able to share with the public published on the NSDI Clearinghouse? If not, please cite barriers encountered.

    FSA is pursuing NSDI clearinghouse status. Barriers have included a lack of resources that can be dedicated to the task.

11. E-Gov: How are you using geospatial data in your mission activities to provide better services? (Please list)

    FSA must have critical geodata infrastructure in place to be able to fully integrate GIS into mission activities. Key program components of this data infrastructure are digitized farm and field boundaries (called Common Land Units) and mosiaicked digital ortho photography (MDOQ) that create seamless county views across the nation. Currently, all local offices in 11 States have their CLU completed, offices in 22 other States

are at various stages of CLU completion at FSA in-house digitizing centers, and CLU for 7 other states has been outsourced. Three additional states are planned for outsourcing before the end of FY2003. Plans are for FSA to complete the CLU digitizing by early FY 2005 provided timely and adequate funding is received in FY2004.

FSA offices integrate mission activities with GIS as core data is acquired for them and use the geodata to provide better service to our customers. Some examples of services FSA will provide when critical geodata is fully available across the country and integrated in program delivery:

- Ability, when used in conjunction with FSA's vast amount of land and customer information, to effectively administer farm and farm loan programs, as well effectively respond to natural disaster, animal or plant disease outbreaks, and bio-terrorism events. This allows FSA to more effectively pass this information to other agencies such as FEMA, APHIS, and state and local emergency management officials.

- Ability, in the incident of a weather related disaster event, to accurately identify, map with GPS units, and import the information GIS for graphical display and analysis. When the data is geo-referenced, it allows those agencies to respond in real-time because they can spatially integrate, relate and analyze date from variety of sources. This improves decision-making and expands program tracking and analysis at all levels - local, state and national.

- Provide standardized accurate measurements of fields from a digital orthophotography base and digital compliance aerial photography for determining acreage for contracts, verification of land eligibility, acreage reports, and compliance work.

- Implements a streamlined compliance process that provides for consistency between USDA Service Centers, reduces errors, and makes available permanent digital records of compliance activities.

- Ability to create high quality, accurate, customized maps for customers on demand, instead of distributing outdated, poor quality photocopies. Ability to maintain and share farm records maps digitally, eliminating printing, distribution and storage of hard copy maps. Better graphical display of information leads to improved decisions by land users and managers.

- Provides improved coordination and data sharing between Federal, State, and local agencies. Provides ability to create and share data with farmers and private industry that use advanced technology in their farm operations.

12. Geospatial One-Stop: How is your agency involved in the Geospatial One-Stop?

In FY2002, FSA contributed $45,000 and named 11 staff members to be made available to participate in standards development and other efforts. In FY2003, FSA participated in a USDA-Agencies contribution that totaled

$180,000 and provide in-kind staff contributions as requested by the GOS Project Manager in the amount of $535,000.

13. Enterprise Architecture: Is geospatial data a component of your enterprise architecture? Please provide a brief summary of how geospatial data fits into your enterprise architecture.

    Yes. A major element of FSA's business and that of its partner Service Center Agencies is the measurement and accounting of agricultural commodities and land. To accomplish this mission, mapping has been a key component of USDA field office operations since at least the 1930's. A crucial feature of the emerging enterprise architecture is the integration of geospatial and tabular data streams to improve operational efficiency and customer service.

14. Partnerships: What efforts are being taken to coordinate data and build partnerships at the field level for data collection and standards development? Identify partnerships and data sharing activities with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments and other entities.

    FSA participates in and was one of the founding members of the National Aerial Photography Program and the National Ortho-photography Program. Both programs provide for partnerships at the state level and with other federal agencies for imagery acquisition. In 2003, FSA worked with other local, State and Federal partners to establish a compliance imagery program called the National Agriculture Imagery Program.

    As one of the USDA Service Center Agencies, FSA works with Natural Resource Conservation Service and Rural Development Agencies to identify, acquire, share and create development and use standards for geospatial data. This partnership continues at the local level with Service Center cooperators such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

15. Concerns or Lessons Learned: Are there areas or issues regarding spatial data that require attention or lessons learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

    - Without sufficient funding, Agencies cannot implement GIS into mission activities in a timely or effective manner. Lack of funding limits our ability to improve services and fully integrate E-Gov capabilities into day-to-day operations.

    - Funding for GIS initiatives has been inconsistent, and when funded, resources are generally limited. Without consistent funding, it is extremely difficult for Federal agencies to collaborate with state and local entities in a timely manner and capitalize pooled resources for data acquisition.